

29 September 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: DCI

SUBJECT: Request by Office of Emergency Planning for Views
on Classification of U.S. Stockpile Information

1. This memorandum contains a recommendation for action in Paragraph 5.

2. On September 9, General Cabell, as Acting Director, wrote a letter (attached) to Mr. Ellis, Director of OCDM, in response to Mr. Ellis' letter of September 7. This letter gave the Agency position on the declassification of stockpile information. General Cabell stated that we would very much like to have stockpile information for the USSR and that US stockpile information would be of at least some limited intelligence value to the USSR. He also stated that if there were good and sufficient reasons for declassification from a policy point of view, we did not consider the matter important enough from our viewpoint to oppose declassification.

3. A meeting of the Interdepartmental Materials Advisory Committee was held on 19 September, which I attended as an observer. At this meeting, I reiterated the stand taken in General Cabell's letter.

4. We have now been asked by Mr. Ellis (letter of 26 September, attached) to justify retention of a security classification on any of the 76 materials for which we believe it should be retained. We

have no direct departmental interest in retaining a security classification on any of these commodities. Moreover, decisions on classification should properly be taken as a matter of policy by the agencies most directly concerned.

5. It is therefore recommended that you sign the attached letter to Mr. Ellis, which reflects the considerations in the preceding paragraph.

LOUIS MARENGO
Assistant to the DD/I (NSC)

cc: DDCI